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EXAMINER.

QUINONES, ISMAEL C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2686	3

DATE MAILED: 03/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/981,268

Applicant(s)

WENZEL ET AL.

Examiner

Ismael Quiñones

Art Unit

2686

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Information Disclosure Statement*

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on October 17, 2001 has being considered by the examiner and made of record in the application file.

### *Claim Objections*

2. **Claim 15** is objected to because of the following informalities:

Lack of antecedent basis when referring to a mobile unit, when the subscribing unit is cited throughout the claim, the examiner suggests the appropriate correction for citing a subscriber unit instead of the mobile unit or further indicating that the subscriber unit comprises a mobile unit. Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1-3, 7-11, 15-17, and 21-23** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ton (U.S. P.G.-Pub. No. 2002/0067704).

Regarding **claim 1**, Ton discloses a method for registering a subscriber unit with a home agent in a cellular system (A cellular system incorporating data communications packet switched networks and that deploys several home agents and a subscriber unit or Mobile Node; *Page 2, Paragraph 19; Figs. 2-5*), the method comprising: storing addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit (Wherein the cellular system/network provides a list of Home Agents attached to a Mobile IP reply message (Mobile IP RRP) through which the subscriber unit may register, and subsequently the subscriber unit stores said list of alternate Home Agents for redundancy support; *Pages 2-3, Paragraph 23 and 28; Page 5, Paragraphs 60-62*), wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and at least one secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit is statically configured to a primary Home Agent for registration and in case of failure, the network provides a list of secondary Home Agents through which the subscriber unit may register, or in an alternate embodiment the list is statically configured as well in the subscriber unit if no modifications are made in the system/network mobility agents; *Pages 2-3, Paragraphs 23-26 and 28; Page 4, Paragraphs 55-57; Page 5; Paragraphs 60-62*); attempting registration with the primary home agent (The subscriber unit is statically configured to attempt registration with a given #1 Home Agent, HA1; *Page 3, Paragraph 36 and 40; Page 4, Paragraph 44; Page 6, Paragraph 81*); failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent (Wherein the request for registration of the subscriber unit is not completed due to failure of the primary home agent; *Page 3, Paragraphs 38-39; Fig.1, steps 120 thru 140*); selecting a secondary home agent from the at least one secondary home agent; and attempting

registration with the secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with primary home agent; *Page 3, Paragraph 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*).

Regarding **claim 2**, and as applied to claim 1, Ton discloses the aforementioned method, wherein the at least one secondary home agent comprises a plurality of secondary home agents (Wherein the default configured home agent is the primary home agent and the rest of the home agents in the network are secondary home agents; *Page 6, Paragraph 81*) and the method further comprises: rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent (Wherein the plurality of secondary home agents are ranked, so when one registration attempt fails with the current home agent, the next secondary home agent becomes the new primary home agent changing its rank to 1; *Page 6, Paragraph 82*).

Regarding **claim 3**, and as applied to claim 2, Ton discloses the aforementioned method further comprising: attempting registration with the first secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit attempts registration with an alternate or first secondary Home Agent, HA2; *Page 3, Paragraph 36 and 40; Page 4, Paragraph 44; Page 6, Paragraph 81; Page 4, Paragraphs 36 and 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 64-65*); failing to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with a previous home agent; *Page 3, Paragraph 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*); and attempting registration with the

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second secondary home agent (Wherein the objective of the invention is to provide alternate home agents in case of failure when attempting registration with a current home agent, subsequently attempting registration if such consecutive failure occurs during the process, therefore the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a second secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with a previous home agent; *Page 3, Paragraphs 36 and 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*).

Regarding **claim 7**, and as applied to claim 1, Ton discloses the aforementioned method, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by a service provider prior to delivering the subscriber unit to its subscriber (Wherein the subscriber unit is statically configured to a given Home Agent for primarily registering to it, also describing means for implementing hardware or software redundancy when statically configuring a subscriber unit as an implementation for selecting alternate home agents; *Page 3, Paragraphs 36 and 42; Page 4, Paragraph 55; Page 5, Paragraph 71*).

Regarding **claim 8**, and as applied to claim 1, Ton discloses the aforementioned method, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by the service provider using over the air access (Wherein in case of failure attempting registration with a primary home agent, the network which is incorporated in a wireless or cellular system delivers Mobile IP replies to the subscriber unit in a wireless fashion so that the subscriber unit can select a from a list of alternate

home agents for attempting registration; *Page 4, Paragraphs 55-57; Page 5, Paragraphs 60-62*).

Regarding **claim 9**, and as applied to claim 1, Ton discloses the aforementioned method, wherein at least some of the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is reprogrammed by the service provider using over the air access (Reprogramming means such as the service provider or home network incorporated into a wireless or cellular system replying in a wireless fashion with additional or alternate home agents for the subscriber unit to attempt registration when failure at attempting registration occurs with a primary home agent; *Page 4, Paragraphs 55-57; Pages 5-6, Paragraphs 60-62 and Paragraphs 75-78*).

Regarding **claim 10**, Ton discloses a method for registering a subscriber unit with a home agent in a cellular system (A cellular system incorporating data communications packet switched networks and that deploys several home agents and a subscriber unit or Mobile Node; *Page 2, Paragraph 19; Figs. 2-5*), the method comprising: storing addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit (Wherein the cellular system/network provides a list of Home Agents attached to a Mobile IP reply message (Mobile IP RRP) through which the subscriber unit may register, and subsequently the subscriber unit stores said list of alternate Home Agents for redundancy support; *Pages 2-3, Paragraph 23 and 28; Page 5, Paragraphs 60-62*), wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and a plurality of secondary home agents (Wherein the subscriber unit is statically configured to a primary Home Agent for registration and in case of failure, the network provides a list of secondary Home Agents through which

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the subscriber unit may register, or in an alternate embodiment the list is statically configured as well in the subscriber unit if no modifications are made in the system/network mobility agents; *Pages 2-3, Paragraphs 23-26 and 28; Page 4, Paragraphs 55-57; Page 5; Paragraphs 60-62*); attempting registration with the primary home agent (The subscriber unit is statically configured to attempt registration with a given #1 Home Agent, HA1; *Page 3, Paragraph 36 and 40; Page 4, Paragraph 44; Page 6, Paragraph 81*); failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent (Wherein the request for registration of the subscriber unit is not completed due to failure of the primary home agent; *Page 3, Paragraphs 38-39; Fig.1, steps 120 thru 140*); rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent (Wherein the plurality of secondary home agents are ranked, so when one registration attempt fails with the current home agent, the next secondary home agent becomes the new primary home agent changing its rank to 1; *Page 6, Paragraph 82*); and attempting registration with the first secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with primary home agent; *Page 3, Paragraph 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*).

Regarding **claim 11**, and as applied to claim 10, Ton discloses the aforementioned method, further comprising: failing to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with a previous home agent; *Page 3, Paragraph 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*); and attempting



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registration with the second secondary home agent (Wherein the objective of the invention is to provide alternate home agents in case of failure when attempting registration with a current home agent, subsequently attempting registration if such consecutive failure occurs during the process, therefore the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a second secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with a previous home agent; *Page 3, Paragraphs 36 and 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*).

Regarding **claim 15**, Ton discloses a subscriber unit that operates within a cellular system, the subscriber unit comprising: an antenna; a radio frequency unit coupled to the antenna; and at least one digital processor coupled to the radio frequency unit that executes software instructions (A mobile terminal that comprises the RF features such as an antenna, a radio frequency unit, and a digital processor; *Page 1, Paragraphs 2-3*) causing the subscriber unit to: store addresses for a plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit (Wherein the cellular system/network provides a list of Home Agents attached to a Mobile IP reply message (Mobile IP RRP) through which the subscriber unit may register, and subsequently the subscriber unit stores said list of alternate Home Agents for redundancy support, in which that redundancy support could be handled on a software redundancy implementation; *Pages 2-3, Paragraph 23 and 28; Page 4, Paragraph 55; Page 5, Paragraphs 60-62*), wherein the plurality of home agents includes a primary home agent and at least one secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit is statically configured to a primary Home Agent for registration and in case of failure, the network provides a list of secondary Home Agents through which the

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subscriber unit may register, or in an alternate embodiment the list is statically configured as well in the subscriber unit if no modifications are made in the system/network mobility agents; *Pages 2-3, Paragraphs 23-26 and 28; Page 4, Paragraphs 55-57; Page 5; Paragraphs 60-62*); attempt registration with the primary home agent (The subscriber unit is statically configured to attempt registration with a given #1 Home Agent, HA1; *Page 3, Paragraph 36 and 40; Page 4, Paragraph 44; Page 6, Paragraph 81*); failing to achieve registration with the primary home agent (Wherein the request for registration of the subscriber unit is not completed due to failure of the primary home agent; *Page 3, Paragraphs 38-39; Fig. 1, steps 120 thru 140*); select a secondary home agent from the at least one secondary home agent; and attempt registration with the secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with primary home agent; *Page 3, Paragraph 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*).

Regarding **claim 16**, and as applied to claim 15, Ton discloses the aforementioned subscriber unit, wherein the at least one secondary home agent comprises a plurality of secondary home agents (Wherein the default configured home agent is the primary home agent and the rest of the home agents in the network are secondary home agents; *Page 6, Paragraph 81*) and execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to: rank order the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent (Wherein the plurality of secondary home agents are ranked, so when one registration attempt fails with the current home

agent, the next secondary home agent becomes the new primary home agent changing its rank to 1; *Page 6, Paragraph 82*).

Regarding **claim 17**, and as applied to claim 16, Ton discloses the aforementioned subscriber unit, wherein execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to: attempt registration with the first secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit attempts registration with an alternate or first secondary Home Agent, HA2; *Page 3, Paragraph 36 and 40; Page 4, Paragraph 44; Page 6, Paragraph 81; Page 4, Paragraphs 36 and 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 64-65*); fail to achieve registration with the first secondary home agent (Wherein the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with a previous home agent; *Page 3, Paragraph 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*); and attempt registration with the second secondary home agent (Wherein the objective of the invention is to provide alternate home agents in case of failure when attempting registration with a current home agent, subsequently attempting registration if such consecutive failure occurs during the process, therefore the subscriber unit selects and attempts registration with a second secondary home agent due to failure when attempting registration with a previous home agent; *Page 3, Paragraphs 36 and 40; Page 5, Paragraphs 63-64; Fig. 1, steps 150 thru 180*).

Regarding **claim 21**, and as applied to claim 15, Ton discloses the aforementioned subscriber unit, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by a service provider prior to delivering the subscriber unit to its subscriber (Wherein the subscriber unit is statically configured to a given

Home Agent for primarily registering to it, also describing means for implementing hardware or software redundancy when statically configuring a subscriber unit as an implementation for selecting alternate home agents; *Page 3, Paragraphs 36 and 42; Page 4, Paragraph 55; Page 5, Paragraph 71*).

Regarding **claim 22**, and as applied to claim 15, Ton discloses the aforementioned subscriber unit, wherein the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is programmed by the service provider using over the air access (Wherein in case of failure attempting registration with a primary home agent, the network which is incorporated in a wireless or cellular system delivers Mobile IP replies to the subscriber unit in a wireless fashion so that the subscriber unit can select a from a list of alternate home agents for attempting registration; *Page 4, Paragraphs 55-57; Page 5, Paragraphs 60-62*).

Regarding **claim 23**, and as applied to claim 15, Ton discloses the aforementioned subscriber unit, wherein at least some of the plurality of addresses for the home agents stored in the subscriber unit is reprogrammed by the service provider using over the air access (Reprogramming means such as the service provider or home network incorporated into a wireless or cellular system replying in a wireless fashion with additional or alternate home agents for the subscriber unit to attempt registration when failure at attempting registration occurs with a primary home agent; *Page 4, Paragraphs 55-57; Pages 5-6, Paragraphs 60-62 and Paragraphs 75-78*).

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

7. **Claims 4, 12, and 18** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ton (U.S. P.G.-Pub. No. 2002/0067704) in view of Jue et al. ("Design and Analysis of Replicated Server Architecture for Supporting IP-Host Mobility").

Regarding **claim 4**, and as applied to claim 2, Ton discloses the aforementioned method rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent. Ton fails to clearly specify wherein said rank ordering comprises: generating a random number; and using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

However in the same field of endeavor, Jue et al. disclose a method for rank ordering a plurality of secondary home agents, wherein the method comprises: generating

a random number; and using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents (A method for randomly selecting home agents for achieving higher load balancing gains; *Page 20, cols. 1 and 2; Page 21, col. 2; Page 22, col. 1; Page 23, col. 1*).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Ton method for rank ordering a plurality of secondary home agents, to include features such as generating a random number and using that number to rank order the plurality of home agents in the subscriber unit as taught by Jue et al. For the purpose of, improving performance when balancing load between home agents during a high or irregular traffic volume rate.

Regarding **claim 12**, and as applied to claim 10, Ton in view of Jue et al. disclose the aforementioned method rank ordering a plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent. In addition Jue et al. discloses wherein the rank ordering comprises generating a random number; and using the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents (A method for randomly selecting home agents for achieving higher load balancing gains; *Page 20, cols. 1 and 2; Page 21, col. 2; Page 22, col. 1; Page 23, col. 1*).

Regarding **claim 18**, and as applied to claim 17, Ton in view of Jue et al. disclose the aforementioned subscriber unit executing software instructions rank ordering a plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent. In addition Jue et al. discloses wherein execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to: generate a random number;

and use the random number to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents (A method for randomly selecting home agents for achieving higher load balancing gains; *Page 20, cols. 1 and 2; Page 21, col. 2; Page 22, col. 1; Page 23, col. 1*).

8. **Claims 5-6, 13-14, and 19-20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ton (U.S. P.G.-Pub. No. 2002/0067704) in view of Perkins ("Mobile Networking through Mobile IP")

Regarding **claims 5 and 6**, and as both applied to claim 2, Ton discloses the aforementioned method rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent. Ton fails to clearly specify wherein said rank ordering comprises: determining a current particular point or period of time such as a current date; and using the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents.

However in the same field of endeavor, Perkins disclose a method for determining a current particular point or period of time such as a current date; and using the current date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents (Wherein the network employs unique identification fields using timestamps when a subscriber unit is requesting registration with a home agent; *Page 62 col. 2 – Page 63, col. 1*).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have Ton method for rank ordering a plurality of secondary home agents, to include features such as determining a current particular period of time such as date for rank ordering a plurality of home agents as taught by

Perkins. For the purpose of, securing registration requests by differing each registration from another.

Regarding **claims 13 and 14**, and as both applied to claim 10, Ton in view of Jue et al. disclose aforementioned method rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent. In addition Jue et al. discloses wherein rank ordering the plurality of secondary home agents comprises: determining a current particular point or period of time such as date; and using the current particular point or period of time such as date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents (Wherein the network employs unique identification fields using timestamps when a subscriber unit is requesting registration with a home agent; *Page 62 col. 2 – Page 63, col. 1*).

Regarding **claims 19 and 20**, and as both applied to claim 17, Ton in view of Jue et al. disclose aforementioned subscriber unit executing software instructions causing the subscriber unit to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents into at least a first secondary home agent and a second secondary home agent. In addition Jue et al. discloses wherein execution of the software instructions further causes the subscriber unit to: determining a current particular point or period of time such as date; and using the current particular point or period of time such as date to rank order the plurality of secondary home agents (Wherein the network employs unique identification fields using timestamps when a subscriber unit is requesting registration with a home agent; *Page 62 col. 2 – Page 63, col. 1*).



***Conclusion***

9. Any response to this Office Action should be **faxed to (703) 872-9306** or **mailed to:**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Hand-delivered** responses should be brought to

Crystal Park II  
2021 Crystal Drive  
Arlington, VA 22202  
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication on earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Ismael Quiñones whose telephone number is (703) 305-8997. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm.

11. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Marsha D. Banks-Harold can be reached on (703) 305-4379, and fax number is (703) 746-9818. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9301.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose number is (703) 305-4700 or call customer service at (703) 306-0377.

*Ismael Quiñones*

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I.Q.

March 15, 2004

*Marsha D Banks-Harold*  
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